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**Organizational matters**

## Report on the annual session 2005 (13 to 24 June 2005, New York)

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# I. Organizational matters

1. The annual session 2005 of the Executive Board of UNDP and UNFPA was held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, from 13 to 24 June.

2. At the session, the Executive Board approved the agenda and work plan for its annual session 2005 (DP/2005/L.2 and Corr.1), as orally amended, and the report on the first regular session 2005 (DP/2005/14).

3. The Executive Board agreed in decision 2005/31 to the following schedule of sessions of the Executive Board in 2005 and 2006:

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|---|---|
| Second regular session 2005: | 6 to 9 September 2005 |
| First regular session 2006: | 23 to 27 January 2006 |
| Annual session 2006: | 12 to 23 June 2006 (Geneva) |
| Second regular session 2006: | 11 to 15 September 2006 |

4. The introductory statement by the President is available at www.undp.org/execbrd.

5. Decisions adopted by the Executive Board at the annual session 2005 were included in document DP/2005/30 accessible at www.undp.org/execbrd.

*Statement by the Administrator*

6. In his departing address to the Executive Board, the Administrator, UNDP, spoke fondly of his six years with the organization, noting with pleasure its many achievements during his tenure. He drew attention to the resource situation – improved by some 40 per cent in five years – and the expanding UNDP reputation as advisor, advocate and champion of people-centred development.

7. Underlining that these achievements better position UNDP to ensure country-driven, nationally owned solutions to development challenges, he stressed that in the previous five years UNDP had become:

(a) Focused and effective, with 95 per cent of programming expenditures allocated in the five practice areas;

(b) Field-oriented, characterized by subregional resource facilities and regional centres, shifting the organizational centre of gravity to the country level;

(c) Knowledge-based, with knowledge management systems interlinked via its global network offering development solutions worldwide when needed;

(d) People-oriented, through investments in training and alignment of promotion with merit; and

(e) Responsive to country needs, making the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) a social contract for programme countries, donors, United Nations organizations and international financial institutions (IFIs), and conscious of emerging global opportunities.

8. The Administrator stressed the importance of 2005 as a breakthrough year, drawing attention to the three pillars set by the Secretary-General as the cornerstone

of his reform plan – development and humanitarian action, peace and security, and human rights and the rule of law. He emphasized the central role that UNDP must play in each in order to tackle the MDGs, and underscored the interconnectedness of debt relief and the provision of aid. He saw a growing role for UNDP, particularly its work in capacity building to help countries reach the MDGs.

9. Highlighting UNDP efforts to strengthen the resident coordinator system, he stressed the vital move to free resident coordinators' hands by appointing country directors in 40 pilot countries. He expressed regret that donor countries had not been more forthcoming in their agreed financial support for that endeavour.

10. He thanked Board members for their support during his tenure, assuring delegations and staff that the Administrator-designate, Mr. Kemal Dervis, was the right person to lead UNDP into the future.

11. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/15 – Expression of appreciation to Mark Malloch Brown, Administrator of UNDP from 1999 to 2005.

12. The remarks by the Administrator were available at www.undp.org/execbrd.

## UNDP segment

# II. Multi-year funding framework

13. The Executive Board reviewed the multi-year funding framework (MYFF) report on UNDP performance and results for 2005 (DP/2005/16), the reports of the Joint Inspection Unit (DP/2005/16/Add.1) and the statistical annex (DP/2005/16/Add.2).

14. Delegations commended UNDP for its balanced presentation of analysis and results, noting improvements in strategic focus and responsiveness to country demand, the alignment of programming priorities with the MYFF, and the commitment to results-based management. They expressed appreciation for UNDP performance at the global level.

15. A few delegations encouraged UNDP to provide a more concise trend analysis in the future, drawing attention to areas for improvement. They sought advances in the presentation of performance findings and a refined method for measuring progress, and pointed to the need for follow-up to the findings, particularly towards achieving gender equality and gender mainstreaming. Suggestions were made for promoting South-South solutions and on the recommendations of the report of the Commission for Private Sector and Development – areas that the MYFF report had identified for further attention.

16. Recognizing the interconnectedness of security and development, some delegations encouraged UNDP to continue to play a role in peacebuilding activities. It was suggested that UNDP broaden its work in energy and environment and in responding to HIV/AIDS. Some delegations underscored the importance of country ownership over the development agenda.

17. Delegations encouraged UNDP to continue efforts towards simplification and harmonization of United Nations operations at the country level through its pivotal

role as custodian of the resident coordinator system. Delegations advised that the UNDP role should be defined by the triennial comprehensive policy review (TCPR) (E/2004/68) endorsed in General Assembly resolution 59/250.

18. Noting that UNDP resources had grown significantly in 2004, delegations encouraged countries in a position to do so to ensure a long-term, stable resource base for the organization, particularly in terms of regular resources.

19. The Board requested an executive summary and a flow diagram showing the results chain in future MYFF reports, and selected 'capacity development' as the theme for the annual 2006 report. The Board also requested, for its first regular session 2006, a timeline for the preparation and consultation process of the end-of-cycle assessment of performance, 2004-2007, and the preparation of the MYFF, 2008-2011.

20. The Associate Administrator thanked delegations for their comments and feedback. He acknowledged the need for the continued focusing of UNDP support, especially in helping countries achieve the MDGs. He responded to a range of queries, explaining that gauging the contribution of South-South cooperation in UNDP support would require time, since South-South solutions were only adopted as a driver of development effectiveness in the MYFF late in 2004. He assured delegations that UNDP was prepared to meet the challenge of achieving gender equality. On follow-up to the report of the Commission for the Private Sector and Development, he illustrated the steps taken by UNDP in partnership with national counterparts, focusing on local private-sector development. He indicated that UNDP would consider presenting performance findings on a country-by-country basis.

21. The Programme Advisor, Operations Support Group, UNDP, drew attention to MYFF quality-assurance mechanisms, particularly expanded internal audits at the country-office level and oversight by regional bureaux. Pointing out that UNDP had closely followed the proposals for MYFF reporting approved by the Board in decision 2004/1, she assured delegations that UNDP would continue to improve its documentation.

22. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/20 on the MYFF: report of UNDP performance and results for 2004, and reports of the Joint Inspection Unit, and took note of the statistical annex (DP/2005/16/Add.2).

## III. Funding commitments

23. In discussing the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2005 and onward (DP/2005/17), delegations were pleased that total income for 2004 had reached $4.1 billion.

24. Delegations expressed satisfaction that UNDP was on track to meeting the 2007 MYFF target of $1.1 billion in core resources. They urged donor and programme countries to adhere to multi-year pledges to core resources. The Board requested that countries consider supplementing their 2005 contributions to accelerate the rebuilding of the core resource base.

25. Delegations made observations and queries, including: requests for: greater financial burden-sharing among Member States; why programme country

contributions to core had decreased; attention to aid effectiveness by urgently implementing the Paris Declaration; and how exchange rate fluctuations affected resources and programme delivery.

26. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, UNDP, acknowledging the concerns, stressed that the growth in core resources was real. He underscored the need to factor into any resource mobilization strategy the potential of non-core contributions, which could increase significantly thanks to donor confidence. He reiterated the UNDP commitment to ensuring growth in programme country contributions and expansion of the resource base, stressing that UNDP was committed to development effectiveness and following up on the Paris Declaration.

27. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/23 on the status of regular funding commitments to UNDP and its associated funds and programmes for 2005 and onward.

## IV. Programming arrangements

28. The Executive Board discussed the mid-term review of successor programming arrangements for 2006-2007 (DP/2005/18), in accordance with decision 2002/10, which extended the programming period to four years and requested a mid-term recalculation of target for resource assignment from the core (TRAC) line 1.1.1. based on gross national income and population data.

29. In the review, UNDP sought Board approval for three proposals: (a) recalculated TRAC line 1.1.1 earmarkings for 2006 and 2007; (b) changes in the earmarkings between TRAC lines 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 for available new resources over the base total programming level of $450 million, used to address urgent national capacity development needs; and (c) a predictable $3 million level of annual funding for the Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People.

30. In the *first proposal*, two options were laid out: (a) take into account all countries reflecting upward or downward revisions to their initial annual TRAC 1.1.1 earmarkings; or (b) consider only countries reflecting upward revisions to their initial annual TRAC 1.1.1 earmarkings.

31. Most delegations voiced their preference for option two, while underlining the need to protect the least developed countries (LDCs). Others opted to maintain the existing system.

32. In general, delegations suggested reviewing TRAC methodology when preparing the new 2008-2011 cycle with more fixed criteria. They requested a report of programming arrangements for capacity building for 2005-2007 outlining the incentive system applied. In its decision, the Board opted to maintain existing TRAC line 1.1.1 earmarkings for 2006 and 2007.

33. Responding to the *second proposal*, delegations expressed strong support for assistance to LDCs and low-income countries (LICs) in overcoming capacity constraints and to achieve greater financial country-level flexibility for UNDP.

34. Noting that UNDP would target countries with good performance and results, delegations encouraged UNDP to ensure that TRAC 1.1.2 would be allocated based

on objective criteria. They stressed the importance of donor coordination and United Nations system coherence. UNDP was encouraged to use all relevant sources to determine capacity constraints, including national development planning cycles and the poverty reduction strategy papers (PRSP) process.

35. In its decision on the *second proposal*, the Board opted to: change the ratio of internal earmarking between TRAC 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 from 60-40 per cent to 50-50 per cent; eliminate the limitation on country allocations between TRAC 1.1.1 and 1.1.2; and introduce a flexibility of up to 10 per cent to facilitate some movement of TRAC 1.1.2 resources between regions.

36. Delegations, expressing support for the *third proposal*, approved in their decision a $3 million level of annual funding for PAPP.

37. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of Management, UNDP, acknowledged requests for a more analytical document on capacity building based on the MYFF and evaluation reports, and the need to ensure that revision of programming arrangements coincided with the subsequent MYFF period. He clarified that the MYFF and programming arrangements were underpinned by the biennial support budget and programme financing. The mid-term revision was necessitated by the increase in the programme finance period to provide latest information.

38. He stated that option one was cost neutral whereas option two required an additional $8.2 million, to be gleaned from the $450 million base. He explained that TRAC 1.1.1 could and should be used to address capacity constraints; the purpose of increasing TRAC 1.1.2 was to provide resources as incentives for good programming to deal with MDG capacity constraints. The assigning of TRAC 1.1.2 was based on programme and operational effectiveness as identified in the MYFF. He affirmed that any attempt to replace GNI criteria must first account for the requirements of most needy countries.

39. The Senior Advisor, Bureau for Resources and Strategic Partnerships, UNDP, stressed the importance of viewing the proposal for TRAC 1.1.2 in the context of UNDP efforts towards United Nations reform and the efforts of programme countries to achieve the MDGs. National development strategies formed the basis for financial provisions to programme countries. Based on those collaborative efforts, UNDP was able to define where TRAC 1.1.2 resources would be funnelled, enhancing absorptive capacity for aid management and effectiveness – without conditionality or change in criteria and without surpassing its legislative mandate.

40. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/26 on the mid-term review of successor programming arrangements.

## V. Human Development Report

41. The Director, Human Development Report Office (HDRO), presented the update on *Human Development Report* consultations (DP/2005/19), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264, which invited the Executive Board to include it annually on its agenda.

42. Delegations commended HDRO for organizing five constructive informal consultations with Members States in preparing the global report. They acknowledged the strengthening of HDRO statistical work, stressing that although HDRO is not responsible for the basic data collection, it must ensure that data used is objective and of the best quality.

43. Several delegations reiterated their support to the editorial independence of the HDR, acknowledging its contribution to development thinking. Pleased with the maintenance of neutrality, independence and transparency, delegations expressed interest in playing a direct role in choosing HDR thematic areas. There was an appeal to continue the discussions of thematic proposals via HDR-Net, and support for the suggestion to explore 'equality' as the theme of an future HDR.

44. Delegations encouraged HDRO to make the most of the information, knowledge and experience available through country office engagement with governments and their statistical databases. They urged the Office to collaborate with United Nations agencies at the country level to harmonize data collection and compilation, and to align national, regional and global HDRs in accordance with General Assembly resolution 57/264 and the 2004 TCPR.

45. The Director, HDRO, underlined the Office's investments in gathering reliable statistics and working with national statistical offices and United Nations organizations to rectify discrepancies. For that purpose, HDRO was creating a specific position in its statistical team. Highlighting HDRO interest in expanding the consultation process to include Member States, he noted the need to strike a balance between editorial independence and responsibility.

46. The Executive Board took note of the update on *Human Development Report* consultations (DP/2005/19).

## VI. Country programmes and related matters

47. The Executive Board reviewed the UNDP global programme, 2005-2007 (DP/GP/1/Rev.1), extensions of country cooperation frameworks the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia (DP/2005/20), the draft regional programme document for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) (DP/RPD/REC/1), and the draft subregional programme for the countries of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Barbados (DP/DSP/CAR/1), originally submitted at the first regular session 2005.

48. The Board commented on the draft country programme documents for Burkina Faso, Ghana, Namibia, Uganda; Cambodia, China, Viet Nam; Albania, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Turkey, Ukraine; Peru and Turks and Caicos. UNDP would incorporate the comments in its country programme documents prior to finalization and approval at the first regular session 2006. Finalized country programmes would be posted on regional bureau web sites by end of October 2005.

49. On the draft regional programme document for Europe and the CIS, delegations commended UNDP for the coordinated consultation process. They urged UNDP to focus on energy and natural resource issues, underlining the importance of overcoming the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and coordinating on cross-border trafficking in cooperation with governments and civil society. They

encouraged UNDP to remain impartial and respect national ownership, focus on the most needy countries, address social exclusion issues, provide details on regional integration, and ensure transparency in running the Bratislava regional centre.

50. Regarding the global programme, delegations commended UNDP for a constructive consultation process and resulting clear, coherent programme in line with the MYFF and TCPR recommendations. They expressed approval of the concept, the shift to local capacity building, the links between MDGs and practice areas, the emphasis on South-South cooperation, and the approach to HIV/AIDS. They stressed the need for a rights-based approach and sought clarification of the UNDP relationship with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG). They underscored the importance of national ownership in programme design, and expected UNDP to report regularly on implementation progress in cooperation with programme countries.

51. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/16 on the UNDP global programme, 2005-2007; took note of the draft country programme documents and the comments thereon; took note of the first extensions of the country cooperation frameworks for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Liberia for a period of one year from 1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006 (DP/2005/20); took note of the draft regional programme document for Europe and CIS, 2006-2010 (DP/RPD/REC/1); and approved the subregional programme for the countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Barbados.

## VII. United Nations Capital Development Fund

52. The Executive Board reviewed the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) business plan, 2005-2007 (DP/2005/22), and the results-oriented annual report (DP/2005/21), submitted in response to decision 2005/5, indicating that the Fund should remain independent with closer financial ties to UNDP, focusing on poverty reduction and achieving the MDGs in the least developed countries (LDCs).

53. Many delegations expressed support for the work of the Fund in local governance and micro-finance, citing the results of the recent impact assessment, which found UNCDF to be effective, results-oriented and focused. One delegation cited more transparent, participatory and accountable local governance thanks to the Fund's work, and commended UNCDF for adhering to principles of national ownership. Others suggested that the Fund's poverty reduction strategies and policy impact were models for replication.

54. Some delegations felt that the business plan was too ambitious and the implementation plan unclear, and sought clarification regarding time horizons, benchmarks and resources. There was an appeal for details on the impact of UNCDF interventions. The Board called on the Administrator to appoint a new Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

55. Delegations expressed support for UNCDF decentralization and regionalization efforts, and requested further information on common services and cost-sharing arrangements, which should be mainstreamed in the biennial support budget (with a separate section on UNCDF) to be submitted to the Board at its second regular

session 2005. They requested a report at the first regular session 2006 on UNCDF budgeting and programming decision-making processes.

56. Stressing the importance of a solid, predictable core funding base, delegations expressed concern that UNCDF continued to be funded by a limited number of donors, and urged others in a position to do so to make additional pledges, including via funding of the Investing in the LDCs Trust Fund. They stressed the need to boost local absorptive capacity. In its decision, the Board encouraged Member States, particularly LDCs, to provide advocacy support to assist UNCDF in its resource mobilization efforts.

57. The Deputy Executive Secretary and Officer-in-Charge, UNCDF, drew attention to efforts to strengthen financial and programming ties between UNDP and UNCDF. She underscored UNCDF successes in building micro-finance institutions and enabling environments, and indicated that UNCDF would provide details on the budget, financial integration and legal arrangements at a future Board session. She reiterated the importance of predictable multi-year funding, adding that UNCDF was collaborating with country offices to pinpoint resource mobilization strategies.

58. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/29 on the UNCDF business plan, 2005-2007: Investing in the LDCs to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and took note of the results-oriented annual report (DP/2005/21).

## VIII. United Nations Office for Project Services

59. The Executive Board reviewed the annual report (DP/2005/23) of the United Nations Office for Project Services, and a progress report on the preparation of an action plan to enhance the efficiency of business operations and achieve financial viability (DP/2005/CRP.10).

60. Delegations commended the Executive Director for his leadership in managing UNOPS. While pleased with the business and financial results and projections, they drew attention to the need to adhere to full cost-recovery principles in its operations, develop a new pricing method – which would be outlined at the second regular session 2005 – revise its financial rules and regulations to, inter alia, maximize the potential of Atlas, and continue decentralizing and rationalizing its office structure. They requested that UNOPS submit documentation punctually to the Board.

61. Delegations generally approved of the shift to work in post-conflict situations, although some wondered about its risk and risk management requirements. Several delegations expressed support for UNOPS as a separate, self-financing entity. Most saw a clear niche and demand for its services, and felt confident about the positive business and financial trends.

62. The Executive Director, UNOPS indicated that revisions to the financial rules and regulations would be tabled at the first regular session 2006, following informal consultations. While highlighting the challenges of Atlas roll-out, he pointed to UNOPS increasing efficiency in utilizing Atlas. He reaffirmed that options for sustained viability would be detailed in the forthcoming action plan, which would present options for lowering the cost base, fostering flexibility, simplifying decision-making, and enhancing country-level presence. UNOPS was engaged in a dialogue with UNDP regarding current service provision and future trends.

63. The Executive Board took note of the report of the Executive Director (DP/2005/23) and the progress report on the status of the preparation of a comprehensive action plan (DP/2005/CRP.10).

## IX. United Nations Development Fund for Women

64. In discussing the report on implementing the MYFF of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) for 2004 (DP/2005/24), delegations commended UNIFEM for a well-structured, informative report. They expressed support for UNIFEM and encouraged UNDG organizations to take advantage of the Fund's experience and expertise, especially as a facilitator and advocate for gender equality in programme countries and in spearheading actions recommended in the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

65. They noted the Fund's successful field-level approach based on programme country needs, underlined the importance of training and the involvement of men, and stressed the central role that UNIFEM should continue to play in advocating gender equality as a pillar to achieving the MDGs. There was an appeal to ensure a gender perspective in all programming instruments, particularly the common country assessment (CCA) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), and to adopt human rights-based programming with a staunch gender element and close UNIFEM involvement.

66. Stressing the importance of the UNDP-UNIFEM partnership and recognizing the Fund's pivotal contribution to United Nations reform, delegations expressed approval for the agencies' collaborative efforts towards cooperation, harmonization and efficient use of resources at the country level.

67. Delegations raised concerns about the high prevalence rates of women with HIV/AIDS and emphasized the need to increase women's role in decision-making, especially in post-conflict and peace-building activities. They applauded UNIFEM for fostering innovative approaches to gender equality and promoting gender-responsive budgeting and policies promoting human rights-based programming, and encouraged all United Nations organizations to follow suit, in particular by issuing regular gender mainstreaming reports. Praising UNIFEM work in combating feminized poverty, delegations reiterated the importance of the gender approach to achieving poverty reduction, especially for indigenous populations.

68. UNIFEM was asked to provide further analysis in the context of the TCPR, the Millennium Project and the Commission on the Status of Women. One delegate called on UNIFEM to ensure that its assistance in programme countries was provided solely upon request and in line with the principle of national ownership.

69. Noting the increase in both regular and other (non-core) resources, delegations urged all countries in a position to do so to continue to support UNIFEM financially through stable multi-year pledges and to contribute to the UNIFEM-managed Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women.

70. The UNIFEM Consultative Committee, comprised of five Member States, each representing a region, noted in its independent assessment (A/60/62-E/2005/10) the inadequate understanding of gender mainstreaming throughout the United Nations

system, and called on all agencies to account for their performance. Pointing out that the Fund's core resource base had not expanded commensurately with its mandate, the Committee urged Member States to increase funding, especially to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women. To enhance UNIFEM influence, the Consultative Committee requested that the post of Executive Director be elevated to the level of Assistant Secretary-General.

71. The Executive Director, UNIFEM, underlining the importance of Board and Consultative Committee guidance for the successful implementation of the UNIFEM mandate, framed her answers around three strategic areas: HIV/AIDS, gender mainstreaming, and advocacy. She drew attention to UNIFEM engagement at the local level with youth, men, and faith-based organizations on HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment to break the stigma, and through union-supported employer-employee arrangements to bring the issue to the fore. She stressed the importance of strategic partnerships, pointing to successes in cross-gender working arrangements to ensure voting rights in Afghanistan.

72. The mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS and human rights through the High Commission on Human Rights, she said, demonstrated the necessity of advocacy at the highest levels. She emphasized the vital, often-overlooked role played by local voices in putting women's issues on the global and national agenda. Local communities had influenced decision-making, improved resource mobilization, and increased media attention to such issues as violence against women. She stressed the effectiveness of a holistic approach to dealing with migration, trafficking and organized crime. The best route to peace and development, she asserted, was via women's role in development.

73. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/22 on the UNIFEM midterm report on the multi-year funding framework.

## X. Gender in UNDP

*Gender human resource issues*

74. The Executive Board reviewed the oral presentation on achievements and challenges in gender human resource strategies and balance, noting the Gender and Diversity in Management Scorecard established to monitor UNDP progress in corporate gender equality.

75. Delegations expressed satisfaction with UNDP efforts to achieve gender balance in human resources and encouraged the organization to pursue them further, especially in recruiting qualified women –particularly from developing countries – for senior-level positions. They stressed the need for gender training at all levels, especially for national officers, and the importance of men's involvement.

76. The Director, Office of Human Resources, UNDP, affirming efforts to sensitize UNDP culture to gender issues, pointed to several corporate initiatives for gender equality, including in recruiting national officers and international staff in country offices. In stating his preference for 'selective intervention' as opposed to 'affirmative action', he stressed that UNDP management sought to 'intervene' to

ensure gender equality based on equal rating and merit in recruitment. Targets for women were set in all corporate recruitment exercises. For example, UNDP had nearly reached its target of 70 per cent women's participation by 2005, when 62 per cent of participants in the resident coordinator assessment exercise were women.

*Corporate gender strategy and action plan*

77. The Executive Board reviewed the corporate gender strategy and action plan for 2005 (DP/2005/7 and Corr.1) and its explanatory note (DP/2005/CRP.9).

78. Underlining the basic directives on gender contained in the MYFF and TCPR 2004 endorsed by General Assembly resolution 59/250, delegations reiterated that gender must be a corporate priority and a central vehicle for achieving the MDGs. Delegations thanked UNDP for the gender strategy and action plan, which they felt demonstrated progress since the first regular session 2005. Some delegations felt that the organization needed to work harder on gender issues and urged UNDP to follow up urgently.

79. Some delegations wondered how gender mainstreaming would be funded once the gender thematic trust fund was exhausted. UNDP should consider using core resources and multi-year predictable pledging to guarantee sustainable gender mainstreaming. Delegations recommended that future budgets and the MYFF should allocate a specific part of their funding to gender. They emphasized the importance of training all staff members, especially in the areas of crisis and post-conflict, and urged UNDP to capitalize on UNIFEM experience and expertise. Stressing the importance of national ownership, there was an appeal for UNDP to avoid programming activities that might cause it to surpass the limits of its mandate.

80. Delegations looked forward to further discussions and requested a medium-term action plan containing results indicators, country-level sex-disaggregated data and an explanation of monitoring mechanisms. The plan should reflect the findings of the gender mainstreaming evaluation and build on the management response at the first regular session in January 2006.

81. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Development Policy, UNDP, assured delegations that their comments and those from the gender evaluation exercise would be reflected in the multi-year action plan, which would be submitted to the Board together with the management response at the first regular session 2006. He reiterated the organization's commitment to mainstreaming gender in all programming activities, tracking the impact of gender programmes and resource allocation, and working closely with UNIFEM.

82. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/27 on gender in UNDP.

# XI. Evaluation

*Preliminary findings on the gender mainstreaming evaluation*

83. Delegations commended UNDP for performing the gender mainstreaming evaluation, though many expressed concern with the preliminary finding that overall progress was variable and limited. Recognizing the difficulty in gathering reliable gender data, they stressed the importance of monitoring and evaluating gender-mainstreaming initiatives. They emphasized the merits of a gender-based approach to development, underlined the importance of staff training, and hoped that empirical evidence and recommendations from the evaluation would be reflected in the UNDP multi-year gender strategy and action plan.

84. Noting the importance of adequate funding, some delegations called on UNDP to utilize core resources for gender programming and made an appeal to discuss gender in tandem with the biennial support budget at the second regular session 2005. Others stressed the importance of national ownership and the sensitivities of gender work at the field level. Delegations asked how UNDP would address the shortcomings identified by the evaluation and requested a comprehensive management response at the first regular session 2006.

85. The Team Leader, Evaluation of Gender Mainstreaming in UNDP, thanked delegations for their comments and emphasized the importance of focusing on practical, feasible proposals to improve gender mainstreaming. She underlined the need to motivate staff and suggested that knowledge of gender issues be a required competency for senior positions. She pointed to the lack of gender-analysis capacity in country offices, and stressed that progress could not depend solely on few committed people. She stressed the limits of relying on non-core funding of gender mainstreaming activities and the importance of maintaining the gender dimension corporately. She underlined the need for staff training at all levels; the key role of programme country governments; and stronger United Nations inter-agency collaboration.

86. The Director, Evaluation Office, UNDP, affirmed that an executive summary of the evaluation would be available at the second regular session 2005, while the management response would be submitted at the first regular session 2006.

87. The Executive Board took note of the oral presentation of the preliminary findings of the gender mainstreaming evaluation.

*Annual report of the Administrator on evaluation*

88. In reviewing the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation (DP/2005/25), delegations commended UNDP for a detailed, well-balanced report describing results achieved and challenges faced. Delegations were pleased with the information on follow-up to the evaluation and the listing of evaluations conducted. Delegations noted the increase in the number of outcome evaluations over the previous year but expressed concern over the low number of evaluations in Africa and the Arab States, and in the thematic area of HIV/AIDS. Delegations commented

positively on the progress in simplification and harmonization through the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG).

89. Delegations encouraged UNDP to work toward greater quality and coherence in evaluations, particularly at the country level. UNDP was urged to select programmes to be evaluated in consultation with programme country governments and to involve stakeholders. It was suggested that evaluation costs should be built into work plans. Delegations appreciated the focus on capacity building and encouraged UNDP to engage more intensively in training national staff. Greater attention to improving the quality of decentralized evaluations and translating findings into learning was recommended. UNDP was encouraged to enhance synergy with other funds and programmes, particularly through joint evaluations, in line with TCPR and other declarations. Delegations endorsed the preparation of a UNDP evaluation policy in line with UNEG norms and standards, a follow-up and tracking system for evaluation recommendations, and a management response.

90. The Director, Evaluation Office, acknowledged the challenges of coverage and incidence of evaluation, while noting that the Arab States situation should be viewed within the context of ongoing country programme cycles. The Director assured delegations of UNDP commitment to raising the level of evaluation in Africa. She noted that coverage itself was not such a critical issue as quality in result areas of strategic value. The Director noted that the new policy based on United Nations norms and standards would help improve quality, and that tracking follow-up through the Evaluation Resource Centre would contribute to better use of evaluations. The Director stated her commitment to rectifying an inaccurate statement in a recent evaluation, as pointed out by a Board member, and described initiatives with other United Nations agencies through UNEG, notably a joint review of UNDAF evaluability; the piloting of new forms of UNDAF evaluation; and a proposed joint evaluation of United Nations system impact at the country level.

91. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/21 on the annual report of the Administrator on evaluation 2004.

## XII. Financial, budgetary and administrative matters

92. The Executive Board reviewed the report on the criteria for the determination of project-specific cost recovery rates (DP/2005/CRP.5), and the revisions to the UNDP financial regulations (DP/2005/CRP.6).

93. Delegations reiterated that all agencies should harmonize their cost recovery principles, and commended UNDP collaboration with the UNDG Management Group. Emphasizing that recovered costs must flow back into the United Nations system and not to country offices, they stressed the importance of full cost recovery for implementing activities financed from UNDP third-party cost sharing, trust fund contributions and programme-country cost sharing. They stressed the importance of ending cross-subsidization and ensuring transparency. There was an appeal for further details on global cost-recovery criteria, and to ensure that costs were attributed to actual funding sources. UNDP should ensure that each source of funding covered its proportional share of management and programme support.

94. Delegations noted that improper implementation would lead to less donor funding of core and more to earmarked contributions. It was stressed that cost-sharing criteria should be adapted to each country situation, with UNDP possibly setting a ceiling. Requesting more detailed analysis, Board members requested at its second regular session 2006 a report on the practice of determining specific cost-recovery rates criteria based on, inter alia, funding and execution modalities and management costs in different countries.

95. Delegations generally accepted the proposed changes to the financial regulations. In its decision, the Board approved, on a three-year provisional basis, the proposed changes to the regulations contained in document DP/2005/CRP.6; requested that all transactions made during the period of waived separation of duties be subject to ex post facto review; and requested a Board of Auditors' assessment of the implementation of those changes at the end of the three-year trial period, within the context of the biennial audit.

96. The Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau of Management, speaking of the determination of cost-recovery rates, cited the variance in workload based on national execution arrangements as an example of the need for flexibility. He recognized donor and programme country concern for improving rate determination criteria to improve project implementation. He stated that while UNDP had improved data collection capacity, results-based budgeting data would only be ready in 2007. He pointed to a harmonization of cost recovery practices system-wide via the UNDG High-level Committee on Management.

97. The Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau of Management, and Director, Office of Planning and Budgeting, UNDP, assured delegations of the UNDP commitment to reporting on the implementation of the corporate cost-recovery strategy through informal consultations before the full report in 2007. She stated that UNDP would reflect cost realignment in the biennial support budget being submitted at the second regular session 2005. She affirmed UNDP efforts to refine cost-recovery rate criteria both within the organization and through the UNDG Management Group.

98. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/17 on the revision of UNDP financial regulations (follow-up to decision 2005/1); and decision 2005/18 on UNDP strategic cost management and implications for cost recovery.

## Joint UNDP/UNFPA segment

# XIII. Internal audit and oversight

99. The Executive Board reviewed the reports on internal audit and oversight of UNDP (DP/2005/26 and Corr.1), UNFPA (DP/FPA/2005/9) and UNOPS (DP/2005/27).

100. *UNDP*. Appreciative of the detailed presentations, delegations welcomed the new framework, commended UNDP for its steps to implement past recommendations, and encouraged agencies to implement improvements in a harmonized fashion. They stressed the importance of monitoring and oversight as

key elements for efficiency and programme impact. Underlining the need for sound financial management, there was an appeal to analyze audit shortcomings in future reports; enhance internal control mechanisms; step up audit coverage at headquarters; and conduct high-risk profiling exercises, especially in country offices.

101. Expressing approval for the comprehensive risk assessment exercise, delegations requested detailed information on measures to implement audit recommendations in country offices, and pointed to the need for an audit tracking system and for training national staff in international audit standards. They requested the status of efforts to recruit an Audit Section Chief, and sought a management response to the internal audit report at a future session.

102. Recognizing the potential of Atlas to improve financial management, delegations expressed concern that implementation was long, incurring large financial and human resource costs. There was an appeal to conduct an evaluation of Atlas cost-benefits, advantages, shortcomings and relevance, and report back to the Board on a regular basis.

103. The Comptroller, Bureau of Management, UNDP, acknowledging delegations' concerns, assured the Board that while Atlas implementation was tedious, 2005 would prove better. Atlas advantages/disadvantages would become clear through an upcoming internal review. External access to Atlas would commence with wave two, although there were security issues. He drew attention to Atlas quality-control mechanisms to track audit recommendations and identify common trends, noting that the internal control framework was an evolving document. He stressed the lack of audit interpretation skills at the local level, for which UNDP had launched a certification programme, and noted efforts to harmonize resource transfer modalities. UNDP would organize informal consultations on the status of Atlas audit mechanisms as needed.

104. The Director, Office for Audit and Performance Review, UNDP, drew attention to two recent Atlas reviews of: cost implementation, which was under finalization; and control framework and compensatory controls, which was completed. She assured delegations of UNDP commitment to follow up on recommendations; conduct training; incorporate analysis of audit issues into risk assessment methods; and collaborate with United Nations organizations.

105. The Director of External Audit (South Africa), United Nations Board of Auditors, stated that the Board of Auditors would assess the Atlas reviews and issue a report to the General Assembly in September 2006.

106. *UNFPA*. The Deputy Executive Director (Management) introduced the UNFPA report on internal audit and oversight activities in 2004 (DP/FPA/2005/9).

107. Delegations acknowledged the measures taken to address audit recommendations, encouraging UNFPA to refine the methodology for tracking their implementation. They welcomed the improved presentation and readability of the UNFPA report and noted that it demonstrated the benefits of introducing a comprehensive audit and recommendations database system.

108. Delegations noted that UNFPA had gone from a qualified opinion to an unqualified opinion by the Board of Auditors on its financial statements, signalling improvements in financial management. One delegation sought assurances that the

organization was also committed to a competitive recruitment process and performance evaluations, and asked if UNFPA had a conflict-of-interest policy. Some delegations requested an explanation concerning the decline, since 2002, in the number of audit reports issued each year.

109. Delegations asked that future reports include the criteria used to select offices to be audited, as well as information about the underlying causes of audit findings and the management response. They asked what was being done to address the audit findings in country offices and to mainstream lessons learned. They underscored the importance of providing adequate training to equip staff to interpret audit findings and devise follow-up plans. One delegation requested information on the participation of the Audit Services Branch in inter-agency working group initiatives on simplification and harmonization.

110. Delegations suggested that future reports include: comparisons with findings from the previous year and between regions; number of recommendations issued within each thematic area; percentage of project audit coverage; percentage of qualified audits; and number of project audit recommendations implemented.

111. To improve the governance structure, delegations suggested that UNDP and UNFPA request the United Nations Board of Auditors to present its report to the Executive Board. They encouraged UNFPA and UNDP to establish criteria to rate audit compliance of country offices objectively.

112. Delegations requested regular updates on the status of Atlas, its challenges, solutions and next steps. Delegations inquired about the independent review of the internal controls in Atlas, requested information about its costs and benefits and asked if an evaluation of its relevance had been undertaken.

113. The Deputy Executive Director (Management) thanked the delegations for their comments and guidance, and noted that the comments made by UNDP concerning Atlas also pertained to UNFPA. She pointed out that the Division for Oversight Services was established in 2003, prior to which audits were carried out by the UNDP Office of Audit and Performance Review. The transition had taken some time, but an increase in the number of audits was now expected. She assured the Executive Board of UNFPA commitment to competitive recruitment, performance evaluations, and improving programme management, and confirmed that a conflict-of-interest policy was included in the Fund's personnel and procurement policies and in the code of conduct.

114. She noted that the Fund's Audit Services Branch communicated with country offices and headquarters divisions on audit issues. Training was provided to enable staff to improve the management of offices and programmes. She welcomed the suggestion that the United Nations Board of Auditors present its report to the Board. She observed that UNFPA had been involved in simplification and harmonization initiatives, including for preparing the terms of reference for audits of projects executed by governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

115. The Director, Division for Oversight Services, stated that UNFPA would work with its sister agencies on standardizing audit ratings. He noted that defining a risk universe was difficult, and concurred that audit analysis should not be restricted to financial impact. He underscored that the audit findings in the report were drawn from a small sample and did not mean that things were getting worse. He confirmed that Atlas provided real-time information on expenditures and budgets and a good

method for fraud detection. He thanked the Board members for their support, adding that internal audit had a human face – that of the women and children whose lives were improved through UNFPA-supported programmes.

116. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/19: UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS: report on internal audit and oversight.

117. *UNOPS.* Thanking the Deputy Executive Director for her presentation, delegations requested an overview of the procurement review and an update on problems, solutions and next steps in Atlas implementation.

118. The Deputy Executive Director, UNOPS, while noting the difficulties experienced, emphasized progress made in tracking and monitoring audit reports and underscored the positive impact of Atlas. She mentioned UNOPS progress in following up on Procurement Committee recommendations, and confirmed the recruitment of the Audit Section Chief who had already assumed his functions.

119. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/19 on internal audit and oversight for UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS.

## XIV. Programming process

120. The Executive Board reviewed the joint report on progress in implementing decision 2001/11: Addressing the issue of the timeframe for developing country programme documents (DP/2005/28-DP/FPA/2005/10).

121. Some delegations expressed interest in proposals to shorten the timeframe for preparing and approving country programmes documents so as to advance simplification and harmonization in line with the 2004 TCPR and the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness. But they cautioned that this could jeopardize the consultation process. Other delegations advised against eliminating country programme documents in favour of an UNDAF-based common country programme document, which might compromise individual agency impact and exceed the Board's mandate. Yet others saw no need for radical changes in current procedures.

122. In its decision, the Board requested UNDP and UNFPA to present at the annual session 2006 a report elaborated jointly with UNICEF on options to streamline the existing harmonized country programme approval procedure so as to decrease the time frame for developing and approving country programmes, and to synchronize them with the cycles of country programming instruments and processes, while maintaining the institutional integrity and mandate of each agency.

123. The Chair, Country Programme Support Group, United Nations Development Group, explained that the Support Group received requests from country teams to reduce the burden on them and national counterparts in the programme process. Using the UNDAF as a single country programme document offered the opportunity to simplify programming documentation without eliminating the need for agency-specific country programmes. The joint office model would ensure a single country presence, while individual country programmes would complement each other more effectively. UNDP would consider the added value of country teams preparing analyses of country programmes. She urged the Board to consider the proposals and reach a decision by the second regular session 2005.

124. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/28 on progress in implementing decision 2001/11: addressing the issue of the time frame for developing country programme documents.

## XV. Field visits

*Field visit to Azerbaijan*

125. In presenting the report of the field visit to Azerbaijan (DP/2005/CRP.8–DP/FPA/2005/CRP.2), the rapporteur, on behalf of the joint mission, expressed gratitude to the Government and the country team for their hospitality and hard work in preparing the field visit.

126. Delegations commended participating Board members on a successful visit that had allowed them to assess challenges and explore ways to streamline United Nations impact, especially with regard to refugees and IDPs. They noted the good level of dialogue between the Government and the country team, as well as United Nations staff dedication to coordination. They commended efforts to capitalize on the country's burgeoning petroleum industry to boost development, assist refugees and IDPs, and provide reproductive health programmes and focus on vulnerable groups.

127. The delegation from the Russian Federation expressed hope that the findings of the mission would not only contribute to improving relations between the Government of Azerbaijan and the United Nations but also to the country's social and economic development. As a participant of the mission, however, the Government regretted that it was not satisfied with the process used in finalizing the report. The process, stated the delegation, had not been transparent or constructive, deadlines for submitting comments had not been provided, and the process for the 'silent agreement' had been unsatisfactory. The participants had not agreed to the latest corrections to the draft report.

128. As co-chair of the Minsk Group of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Russian Federation believed in the importance of constructive political cooperation by the United Nations in the settlement of the Nagorny Karabakh conflict, taking into account the principle of territorial integrity and other important principles of the United Nations and OSCE. It was important that United Nations documents dealing directly or indirectly with the issue used agreed formulations. In a number of places in the report, unfortunately, that approach had not been respected. The secretariat bore particular responsibility for those problems, as it was responsible for ensuring that only duly agreed documents be brought to the Board for approval.

129. Other delegations commended the hard work of all involved in issuing the report on time under tight deadlines. There was a request that the report be reissued on technical grounds.

130. The report on the joint field visit to Azerbaijan (DP/2005/CRP.8–DP/FPA/2005/CRP.2) would be reissued for technical reasons.

*Field visit to Lao People's Democratic Republic*

131. In introducing the report on the field visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic (DP/2005/CRP.7 - DP/FPA/2005/CRP.1), the rapporteur thanked the Government for the warm welcome and hospitality. He also thanked the United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, the UNFPA Representative and respective staff for their work. He highlighted the major development challenges facing the country, particularly: heavy unexploded ordnances; the need to develop national capacity; and population issues. He underscored that the activities of UNDP and UNFPA fit with Government priorities and promoted national ownership.

132. The rapporteur noted that the UNDP Governance and Public Administration Reform programme was one of the most successful UNDP projects in the Republic. He drew attention to UNDP support to the UXO Lao programme, underscoring the need to raise awareness of the UXO problem among the donor community.

133. The co-rapporteur noted that UNFPA assistance to the Government in addressing reproductive health and population and development issues had led to a good policy environment; increased availability of reproductive health services; increased contraceptive prevalence; and reduced maternal mortality. He highlighted successful work in supporting peer education and teacher training; the use of mobile teams to provide reproductive health services to remote villages; and the use of community drama to raise awareness about such issues as HIV prevention. He commended UNFPA collaboration with the local people, civil society organizations and international NGOs.

134. The Executive Board took note of the note of the report on the field visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

## UNFPA segment

# XVI. Annual report of the Executive Director for 2004

135. In her opening statement the Executive Director focused on five key issues: the countdown to 2015; responding to a changing world; achieving MYFF strategic results; making UNFPA a more effective development agency and partner; and mobilizing resources. She underscored the link between human rights and culturally sensitive approaches to programming and emphasized the importance of South-South cooperation. She announced the new tag line and shortened mission statement developed to convey the Fund's vision to the general public, and introduced the Report of the Executive Director for 2004: Progress in implementing the multi-year funding framework, 2004-2007 (DP/FPA/2005/7, Parts I to II). Her full statement is available on the UNFPA web site: http://www.unfpa.org/execbrd.

136. Numerous delegations congratulated the Executive Director on her leadership, the extension of her appointment to 2008, and the progress achieved during the first year of implementing the MYFF. Delegations commended UNFPA for attaining, in 2004, the highest-ever level of contributions to its regular resources and a record

number of donors. Some announced their contributions, including multi-year pledges and in one case a doubling of resources to UNFPA. Delegations encouraged UNFPA to enhance its partnerships, including with the private sector.

137. Delegations emphasized that achieving the goals of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) was essential for achieving the MDGs. They commended UNFPA for its leadership in promoting the ICPD Programme of Action and its work in the areas of sexual and reproductive health; gender equality and women's empowerment; and reproductive health commodity security. Many expressed support for the inclusion, in the upcoming 2005 World Summit, of another target under the maternal health goal (MDG 5): universal access to reproductive health services through primary health care systems by 2015.

138. Delegations commended increasing UNFPA engagement in policy work, including participation in PRSPs and sector-wide approaches (SWAps). They urged UNFPA to address the aspect of adolescent health with urgency, and supported its efforts to combat HIV/AIDS and reduce gender-based violence. They encouraged the Fund to scale up its work with greater focus on the 'Three Ones'. Delegations welcomed UNFPA contributions to national capacity building, its active support of the TCPR and. United Nations reform, and its commitment to implementing the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

139. Delegations encouraged UNFPA to make future MYFF reports more analytical and concise, indicating that poor-quality data for quantitative goal and outcome indicators undermined the MYFF as a planning and monitoring tool and that country-level data should be included in the cumulative MYFF report in 2007.

140. One delegation urged UNFPA to implement a clear strategy on reproductive health commodity security, underscoring the UNFPA role in reducing maternal mortality and addressing the consequences of unsafe abortions. One delegation emphasized the importance of nutrition and age at marriage as contributing factors to maternal mortality, and urged culturally sensitive approaches in addressing the latter issue.

141. Delegations commended UNFPA work in the area of South-South cooperation, its success with the obstetric fistula campaign, and the youth advisory programme. They noted its expanding work in emergency relief and humanitarian response, particularly in the wake of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster. They urged UNFPA to develop its ability to provide timely, systematic response to emergency/crisis situations, asking it to examine the implications of ensuring sustainability of future responses and report back to the Board.

142. The Executive Director thanked delegations for their support to UNFPA and its work. She thanked the Government of Sweden for hosting the Stockholm high-level round table on investing in reproductive health and rights. She appreciated the suggestion that reproductive health target be included under MDG 5, and concurred with the need to scale up efforts in the areas of maternal mortality and HIV prevention. She emphasized UNFPA focus on the sexual and reproductive health of young people and its involvement with the 'Three Ones'.

143. She underscored the Fund's work in reproductive health commodity security, noting that a strategy would be shared with Board members. UNFPA had provided guidance to country offices on inadequate attention to adolescent reproductive health in PRSPs. She observed that there were over 1,000 applicants for internships

in the Fund's special youth programme, and mentioned successful private-sector partnerships for the fistula campaign.

144. Concerning PRSPs and SWAps, the Executive Director noted that the Fund's small staff limited its capacity to participate in all the meetings. UNFPA needed to scale up its resources in country offices to deal with such challenges, including those associated with United Nations reform efforts. She emphasized the Fund's commitment to culturally sensitive approaches to programming, South-South cooperation and working in the new aid environment.

145. The Chief, Strategic Planning Office, appreciated the comments of delegations and stressed that UNFPA was committed to implementing the MYFF effectively. He noted the comments concerning data and indicators for MYFF reporting, stating that he expected more data on the indicators to be available for the cumulative MYFF report in 2007.

146. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/25: Report of the Executive Director for 2004.

## XVII. Funding commitments to UNFPA

147. In introducing the report on funding commitments to UNFPA (DP/FPA/2005/8 and Corr.1), the Executive Director thanked donors for their contributions, which had enabled the Fund to reach its highest-ever level of resources. In particular, she thanked the countries that had increased their contributions, and hoped that UNFPA would be able to reach its new goal of $400 million in regular resources in 2005.

148. The Officer-in-Charge, Resource Mobilization Branch, provided an updated UNFPA income forecast. He stressed the importance of a predictable, assured resource base and thanked the Executive Board for its guidance, support and encouragement.

149. Delegations congratulated UNFPA for the successful resource mobilization, noting that this was a sign of donor confidence in its work. They appealed for more official development assistance to population and reproductive health

150. The Executive Director thanked the delegations for their support and suggestions. She noted that UNFPA would explore how best to reflect in the report the contributions from programme countries.

151. The Executive Board adopted decision 2005/24: Funding commitments to UNFPA.

## XVIII. Country programmes and related matters

152. The Executive Board had before it 14 draft country programme documents (CPDs); a note on the implementation of the UNFPA special programme of assistance to Myanmar; the first one-year extension of the special programme of assistance to Myanmar; and the two-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste.

153. *Africa*. Delegations encouraged UNFPA to sharpen the focus on HIV/AIDS prevention in all four programmes. They welcomed the Fund's collaboration with civil society in Burkina Faso, particularly in the areas of education and awareness-raising. Delegations welcomed the focus on gender issues and noted that UNFPA was well placed to lead the Common Fund on Gender. They urged UNFPA to be further engaged in the health sector programme and to lead the reproductive health agenda. Regarding the Ghana CPD, delegations noted the progress achieved through the SWAp, urged stronger reference to the private sector concerning condom programming, and encouraged UNFPA to increase capacity in the area of gender. Concerning the Uganda CPD, they urged closer alignment with the PRSP and the health SWAp and recommended further harmonization with other United Nations organizations. Delegations asked how the humanitarian problems in Northern Uganda would be tackled, and urged UNFPA to address the issue of HIV/AIDS orphans.

154. *Arab States and Europe*. Delegations appreciated the coherence between the Ukraine and Albania CPDs and the respective UNDAFs. They underscored the Fund's role in awareness-raising among young people with regard to reproductive health and rights; emphasized the need to address HIV/AIDS; and commended the Fund's HIV-prevention work with the uniformed services in Ukraine. Delegations encouraged UNFPA to work to reduce the incidence of abortion in Ukraine and Albania and to address gender-based violence in Ukraine, calling for additional resources for the Ukraine programme. They were pleased that the Turkey CPD emphasized national capacity-building and was in accordance with national priorities. Concerning the CPD for the Occupied Palestinian Territory, one delegation applauded the focus on access to comprehensive reproductive health services.

155. *Asia and the Pacific*. Delegations underlined the importance of safe motherhood and skilled birth attendance with reference to the Bangladesh CPD. They welcomed efforts to train skilled birth attendants and called for technical support to improve the quality of services. More attention should be focused on capacity-building, reproductive health commodities and partnerships with civil society. Delegations commended the Cambodia CPD and the Fund's planned assistance for the 2008 census. They encouraged UNFPA to work with NGOs on sensitive issues such as adolescent reproductive health, and encouraged further collaboration with the Ministry for Women. Concerning the China CPD, one delegation did not support the Fund's continued provision of reproductive health and family planning support to the Chinese population authorities. Numerous others expressed support for the CPD, welcoming the commitment to reform and the emerging openness within the Chinese family planning programme. Regarding the Viet Nam CPD, delegations commended the focus on reducing poverty and maternal and infant mortality. They noted a need for adolescent reproductive health programmes in school, and encouraged UNFPA to continue its activities in Myanmar to secure people's reproductive health and rights.

156. *Latin America and the Caribbean*. Delegations appreciated that the Peru CPD was in line with national priorities and national development plans. They welcomed the fact that Government, NGOs and other development partners had been widely consulted in developing the programme.

157. The Directors of the UNFPA Geographical Divisions thanked the delegations for their comments, adding that the comments on individual draft country programmes would be conveyed to the concerned countries.

158. The Executive Board took note of the first one-year extension of the special programme of assistance to Myanmar and the note on its implementation. The Board approved the two-year extension of the country programme for Timor-Leste and took note of the following 14 CPDs and the comments made thereon: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Namibia, Uganda, Albania, Georgia, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Turkey, Ukraine, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, Viet Nam and Peru.

## XIX. Other matters

*Farewell tribute to UNDP Administrator*

159. The Executive Board paid tribute to UNDP Administrator Mark Malloch Brown upon his departure from UNDP to assume the position of United Nations Chief-of-Staff. Delegations extolled the Administrator's accomplishments and personal qualities and wished him well in his new position.

160. Expressing regret at his departure and applauding his commitment to development, Board members commended the Administrator for his leadership in guiding UNDP through a critical reform period, and in initiating UNDP work in areas such as post-conflict peace-building, the Private Sector Commission and the Millennium Project, and turning around the organization's resource situation.

*Special event: From Post-conflict Peace-building to Development: The Experience of El Salvador*

161. The President of the Executive Board opened the special event underlining the importance of the peace-building efforts in El Salvador and the exemplary partnership between El Salvador and UNDP in working toward sustainable peace and development.

162. She introduced the distinguished speakers, notably H. E. Mr. Francisco E. Laínez, Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador, who reviewed the challenges that El Salvador faced in achieving lasting peace and democracy after a decade of armed conflict, highlighting the process of dialogue and negotiation overseen by UNDP.

163. Accompanying Foreign Minister Laínez were the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Agustín García Calderón; the former Minister of Education and coordinator of El Salvador's first report on attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Evelyn Jacir de Lovo; political leader and former commander of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), Facundo Guardado; UNDP Associate Administrator, Zéphirin Diabré; and United Nations Resident Coordinator in El Salvador, Beat Rohr. They addressed the transition from conflict resolution to

peace-building and development; institutional and legal reforms; and the evolution of socio-economic development policies.

164. The Deputy Assistant Administrator and Deputy Director, Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, Mr. John Ohiorhenuan, discussed lessons learned from post-conflict peacebuilding work across the globe, and the Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Elena Martinez, spoke of the UNDP role in peace-building in Central America.

165. Delegations thanked the speakers for their presentations, and commended the Government of El Salvador and UNDP for organizing the event. They drew attention to UNDP initiatives involving peace negotiations; framework agreements on human rights and indigenous peoples; assistance to internally displaced persons and refugees; and support to DDR activities.

166. Delegations urged UNDP to continue working with countries to coordinate peace processes throughout post-conflict phases. Given scarce post-conflict resources, UNDP should urge United Nations agencies to pool their resources and work closely with the IFIs for maximum country-level impact. Urging UNDP to capitalize on the growing importance of post-conflict peace-building activities, they expressed hope that the Secretary-General's initiative to establish a peace-building commission and a standing fund for peace-building, once endorsed, would have a positive effect on UNDP post-conflict work.

167. The special event was followed by a reception co-hosted by the UNDP Administrator and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of El Salvador.

*Working methods of the Board*

168. The Bureau Vice-President, African States, presented the non-paper on improving the working methods of the Executive Board, highlighting the issues raised at the 1 June informal meeting. Delegations showed interest in the proposals in the non-paper, but indicated that further discussion was necessary before recommending actions for improvement. Some delegations saw no need to improve working methods at this juncture.

169. A number of delegations suggested identifying shortcomings in the working methods of the Board in matrix form. Board members agreed to present their recommendations at the present session, holding informal consultations and resubmitting the non-paper as an official Board document at the second regular session in September 2005.

*A UNDG informal presentation on the findings of the global survey on the impact of the MDGs at the country level*

170. The presentation provided an overview of key findings of: (a) awareness and ownership of the Millennium Declaration and MDGs; (b) signs of commitment, gauging the preparedness of the analytical base for the formulation of MDG-based poverty reduction strategies and development plans, progress in carrying out needs

assessments, and shifts in policies, legislation, budgets and development cooperation; (c) signs of movement towards implementation, such as scaling-up of programmes to address health and education; and (d) scale and nature of actions undertaken by United Nations country teams.

*UNFPA*

171. UNFPA organized two informal consultations: (a) on the UNFPA role and action in emergency preparedness, humanitarian response, and transition and recovery; and (b) on maternal health and HIV/AIDS.